



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

December 27, 2012

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

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PLAN TO SUSTAIN AND ENCOURAGE MALE PARTICIPATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

On September 25, 2012, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to encourage early care and education programs throughout Los Angeles County to promote the importance of fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and male family figures in the early education of young children and to conduct outreach to increase the involvement of male relatives in early childhood education programs.

October 1st was declared as "Be a Hero! Take Your Child To Preschool Day". Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start worked with its delegate agencies to plan events at individual Head Start agencies and sites which hosted activities for nearly 6000 male relatives of the enrolled children. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) worked with its contractors and reports that a number of their programs engaged in father-related activities on October 1, 2012. The Office of Child Care distributed information through the Child Care Planning Committee and to all California Department of Education (CDE) contractors. A toolkit was made available online for programs to use in planning and implementing the day's events.

LACOE Head Start is working within the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework which describes family engagement outcomes that positively impact the development of young children. LACOE Head Start has made a focus on fathers (or other male family figures) a key strategy in ensuring its family engagement outcomes.

In an effort to integrate the involvement of fathers into the regular functions of Head Start, LACOE Head Start is:

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- Partnering with the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students), and Strong Fathers Strong Families, to plan Countywide activities throughout the 2012-13 program year in an effort to increase male involvement in preschool, the home, and the community. LACOE's goal is to increase the number of males involved in their child's education and to positively impact child outcomes.
- Partnering with a consortium of school districts throughout Los Angeles County to plan and co-sponsor a Parent Involvement Academy (PIA) in March 2013. A key focus of the PIA's workshops and scheduled speakers will be on the importance of male involvement, with an emphasis on strategies to develop and sustain parent-child relationships that foster child learning and development.

Following the inaugural event in October, a group of representatives from each of the three entities began planning a Countywide event for April 2013 during the Month of the Young Child. This event will feature information, resources, children's games and activities, speakers and performances to draw children with their fathers or other male relatives.

In addition to the event in April, LAUP plans to invite a representative from Children's Institute to speak about The Project Fatherhood Program at an upcoming provider meeting in 2013. The Project Fatherhood Program was founded in 1996 to re-engage low-income fathers, particularly in urban settings, in the care and upbringing of their children. LAUP is also integrating male involvement into the strategies used in work with providers around parent engagement and *Fit By 5 LA*, a local health and wellness initiative. LAUP will continue to explore additional opportunities to highlight the significance of male involvement in its ongoing work with providers and parents/families across the County.

The Office of Child Care will support the April event, and will promote it among all the CDE-funded programs and with the County employee child care programs. The Office of Child Care will keep these programs informed of other resources pertaining to family engagement, in particular the involvement of fathers or other male relatives.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Trish Ploehn at (213) 974-4532 or via e-mail at tploehn@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ:TP
LB:LE:km

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Universal Preschool